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NOMINATION OF RICHARD E. CARVER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

NOMINATION OF

RICHARD E. CARVER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

SEPTEMBER 20, 1984

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NOMINATION OF RICHARD E. CARVER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1984

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:06 p.m., in room SR-222, Russell Senate Office Building, Senator Alan J. Dixon presiding.

Present: Senator Alan J. Dixon.

Also present: Senator Charles Percy.

Staff present: Alan R. Yuspeh, general counsel; Arnold L. Punaro, staff director for the minority; Jeffrey H. Smith, minority counsel; Christine C. Dauth, chief clerk; and Marie Chaillet, staff assistant.

Also present: Les Brownlee, assistant to Senator Warner; Jeffrey B. Subko, assistant to Senator Exon; and Charles C. Smith, assistant to Senator Dixon.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR ALAN J. DIXON, PRESIDING

Senator DIXON. Ladies and gentlemen, this meeting of the Armed Services Committee will come to order.

The chairman, Senator Tower, is otherwise temporarily engaged and has asked me to chair the meeting.

Mr. Carver, your nomination reference and your biographical sketch will be entered in the hearing record at this point.

[The nomination reference and biographical sketch of Mr. Carver follows:]

NOMINATION REFERENCE

AS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION,
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
August 10, 1984.

Ordered, That the following nomination be referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

Richard E. Carver, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Russell D. Hale, resigned.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF RICHARD E. CARVER

Age: 46.
Married: Judith S. Carver.
Member, Board of Trustees, Eureka College.
Member, President's Commission on German-American Tricentennial.
Member, Peoria Advisory Committee on Arts and Humanities.
Director, Peoria Historical Society.
Director, Peoria City Beautiful.
Chairman, Peoria Sister City Commission.
National Runner-up Homemaker of The Year.

Children: Kathryn, 24; Stephen, 22; Cynthia, 21; Susan, 19.
Education: B.S. Business Administration, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois.
Occupation: President, Carver Lumber Company; Mayor, City of Peoria, Illinois—1973–present.
Current activities:
Director, Provident Federal Savings & Loan Association of Peoria.
Director, Methodist Medical Center of Illinois.
Director, L.R. Nelson Manufacturing Company.
Director, Economic Development Council for the Peoria Area.
Director, Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce.
Member, National Council of Advisors, Bradley University College of Business Administration.
Member, Peoria Area Hospital Council, and Chairman, Committee on Cost Containment Legislation.
Member, National League of Cities Advisory Council.
Member, President's Commission on Housing; Chairman of Housing Programs Committee.
Member, U.S. Conference of Mayors Executive Committee.
Member, Illinois Jobs Training Coordinating Council.
Member, Junior League of Peoria Community Advisory Board.
Vice President, Illinois Municipal League.
Past National Chairman, Mayors For Reagan.
Past Member, Republican National Committee Executive Committee.
Past Member, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.
Past President, National Conference of Republican Mayors.
Past President, United States Conference of Mayors.
Past Director, Illinois State Chamber of Commerce.
Other: Delegate, United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT 1976); Delegate, Republican National Convention (1976).
Military: Lt. Colonel, Air Force Reserve; Coordinator of Admissions Counseling, Downstate Illinois, USAF Academy and ROTC.
Awards:
Outstanding Young Man of the Year—1969.
Outstanding Young Men In America—1971.
National Runner-up (5 times) "Retailer of the Year."
Tri-County Citizen of the Year—1974.
B'Nai B'rith Citizenship Award—1974.
Magnificent Gentlemen, Inc.—Citizen of the Year—1974 (representing outstanding service to the community).
Peoria's Most Outstanding Man of the Year—1974.
Citizenship Award, Peoria Chamber of Commerce—1977.
Toastmasters International Communication Achievement—1979.
National Distinguished Alumnus Award, Phi Gamma Delta—1983.
National Distinguished Alumnus Award, Bradley University—1983.
Jaycee's Charles C. Schlink Memorial Good Government Award—1984.

Senator DIXON. Ladies and gentlemen, the committee meets today to consider the nomination of Richard E. Carver of Peoria, IL, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management.

Richard Carver is presently the mayor of Peoria, IL, a position he has held since 1973. Mayor Carver has been active in the Peoria business community for a number of years. He is a director of several corporations and nonprofit organizations in Illinois.

He has served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayor Carver presently serves as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and is the coordinator of the admissions counseling in Peoria, IL, for the U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC programs.

He has received numerous awards for his civic contributions and his outstanding performance as mayor of Peoria.

I would like to note for the record that Mayor Carver has met with the staff of the committee to discuss his financial holdings in order to ensure that there is no conflict of interest between those holdings and his service at the Department of Defense.

I am absolutely delighted to see my old friend, Mayor Richard E. Carver, here at this time and to see entering this room to introduce him in the eloquent manner I know he is capable of doing, my senior colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Charles Percy of Illinois.

Of course we do recognize the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee for this introduction.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES H. PERCY, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Senator PERCY. Mr. Chairman—this is the first time I have called you "Mr. Chairman."

Does the sound appeal to you?

Senator DIXON. I think I am going to like this.

Senator PERCY. I very much appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Armed Services Committee this afternoon.

Personally it is more than a pleasure for me, it is an honor for me because I note by looking at the calendar this is one of the last committee hearings to be chaired by its distinguished chairman, who is not here today, but certainly is here in spirit, the chairman of this committee.

The day the Senate adjourns for the year will be a sad one for many of us who have come to respect Senator Tower who has been my colleague for many, many years.

But to have you in the chair, Senator Dixon, is a great pleasure. As a new member of this committee, you add tremendous strength to it.

Before the committee today is the President's nomination of Richard E. Carver to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management.

It is without hesitation that I present Dick Carver to the committee for what I hope and expect will be a thorough examination of his qualifications and recommendation to the full Senate that he be confirmed.

I have known Mayor Carver for many years. Both he and his lovely wife, Judy, have been friends to me and my family, as I know they have to you, Mr. Chairman.

It has been interesting to watch Dick Carver's development over the years as he rose from being a young, fresh face on the Peoria City Council to serving as a reform and development-minded mayor of Peoria.

In the over 10 years he has served as mayor of Peoria, the third largest city in the State, Dick Carver has changed the face of the skyline of the city through his tireless efforts of redevelopment, expansion and investment.

In addition, Dick Carver has served on a national level as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The list of his civic affiliations is long. One comes to the conclusion after reviewing it that Dick Carver is the epitome of an American public servant.

He is a successful businessman. He continues to serve the national defense as an officer in the Air Force Reserve.

Mr. Chairman, without hesitation, I present to you one of Illinois' most distinguished citizens with my very, very highest recommendation.

If I can be personal on one note, this morning headlines were blaring once again about the outrageous expenses of spare parts and I can say from a background now of 4 years on the Permanent Investigating Subcommittee where I served as ranking member and on the Governmental Affairs Committee, we have held oversight hearings on what looked to be loose purchasing practices, a lack of surveillance, a lack of oversight, and it is outrageous for our staff and my own investigators to discover that we are paying $7,000 for an Alan wrench that you can buy for a fraction of that cost, or 1/16th-inch wire that we can go in and buy and when we try to pay them, they say it costs too much to ring it on the cash register. Here is 1/16-inch wire that we pay thousands of dollars for and "We will give it to you free."

Having headed an industrial organization that did a lot of defense work for many, many years, I know it is impossible to root out all waste, but the pressure on any governmental office, particularly at a time of huge deficits, is great. I think this is just one more step that Secretary Weinberger is taking and the Department of Defense and the Reagan administration to see that we do get to the bottom of this.

I don't know any one better qualified than the mayor, who has had to run a tight fiscal budget, who has an Air Force background, who is a businessman, and who brings all those qualities, combined with long-time public service, working enough in the private sector to know how essential it is when we are dealing in the billions of dollars in the national defense, to ensure we tighten up that operation, that we put fiscal management responsibility right where it belongs, and that we correct these deficiencies and we lessen the necessity for Congress to oversight by having oversight themselves.

We have created in our committee inspectors general in every major department. We have an internal structure to do that without the necessity of having gone outside. And the best possible way to do it is to get the right people in it at the right time.

I say to this committee that there is no better man for this particular job than Dick Carver.

Senator DIXON. I want to thank my distinguished senior colleague, Senator Percy, distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, for the eloquent introduction of Mayor Carver of Peoria.

I very briefly will say that I have known Dick Carver for many years during my time in public service. We are at opposite political persuasions. He is a person who exemplifies the perfect public man, in my opinion.

He has been an outstanding mayor of the city of Peoria. I think this will be one of the great appointments by this administration.

May I say, Senator Percy, during my tenure here, and there is an old saying that goes around the country, "How does it play in Peoria," Mayor Dick Carver has played super in Peoria for a good many years.

We are delighted that the President of the United States has used his good judgment to suggest to the Armed Services Committee, of which I have the honor to be a member, that Richard E. Carver be nominated and confirmed as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

I thank you, Senator Percy, for your remarks. It is my personal pleasure on behalf of both you and myself to welcome to this committee for his remarks Mayor Richard E. Carver, the distinguished mayor of Peoria.

Senator PERCY. I would like very much to stay and I will read the transcript, but I am chairing a hearing presumably which began at 2 p.m., but won't start until the Chair gets there. It is on Poland, a subject of interest to both of us.

Senator DIXON. We thank you, Senator, for taking time out from your busy schedule.

We are delighted to recognize you, Mr. Carver.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD E. CARVER, MAYOR OF PEORIA, IL

Mayor CARVER. Mr. Chairman, I have no opening remarks except to express my personal gratitude for the very kind comments of both yourself and Senator Percy and to indicate what a great honor it is to be here today, and also to introduce to you someone I know you know, but for the record, I would like to let you know my wife, Judy, is with me.

We both share the same degree of appreciation for this opportunity to provide service to this great country of ours.

If there are any questions of me, I will be happy to respond to them.

Senator DIXON. May I say to you, Mr. Mayor, that you are obviously a person of excellent reputation. For that reason, there is no objection whatsoever to your nomination.

It will be the practice of this committee, as it has been its practice generally when an appointment is not controversial because of outstanding service by the individual, to poll the committee.

I have a statement from the chairman of the committee, the distinguished Senator from Texas, Senator John Tower, regarding committee approval of military nominations today. The record will show that the members of the committee are informed that there are pending before the committee and eligible for consideration today 1,350 routine military nominations.

These have been before the committee for the required 7 days and no objections have been raised.

The record will show that these nominations will be reported favorably by the committee to the Senate in due course.

We have had three professional staff members leave the committee in the last several months, Wayne Arny, Mike Donley, and Bruce Porter.

Chairman Tower at this time will entertain a motion that a resolution of commendation for their service to the committee be approved in the standard form and that copies of such resolution be transmitted to the staff members. Let the record show that to be the case. We will then poll the committee.

I congratulate you on your confirmation, Mayor Carver.

Mayor CARVER. Thank you, Senator.

Senator DIXON. This committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:17 p.m., the committee proceeded to other business.]

[The nomination of Richard E. Carver was reported to the Senate by Senator Tower on September 20, 1984, with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed. The nomination was confirmed by the Senate on September 26, 1984.]

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